

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A pipe coupling comprising:

a single gasket,

a resilient mounting ring made of a flexible material and having a split and

a circular recess for receiving the gasket, and

a mounting flange having a cone shaped inner surface,

wherein the mounting ring is elastically expandable and is integrally formed with an outer cone-shaped surface and with an inner rib, wherein the rib [being adapted to fit]fits into a circumferential groove formed [on]in a pipe upon elastically expanding the ring over the pipe to hold the ring affixed to the pipe, wherein the pipe coupling [is for connecting]connects the pipe to a counter-flange associated with a second pipe in a sealed manner when the ring is tightened towards the counter-flange.

Claim 22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 22 wherein the ring is split by a cut extending in an axial plane thereof.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 22 wherein the ring is split by a cut extending in a non-axial plane thereof.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is made of plastic material.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the inner rib comprises a circular rib.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 26 wherein the rib is of a generally saw-tooth shape having a right-angled side and a beveled side.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein [the ring is formed with a circular recess for the gasket, and] the gasket is elastomeric.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 28 wherein the gasket is formed with an inner slot.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 29 wherein the gasket is formed with a thin flap.

Claim 31 (Canceled)

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim [31]21 wherein the cone angle is between 150-300 degrees relative to the axis of the ring.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 32 wherein an upright shoulder extends around the end of the cone-shaped surface.

Claim 34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 34 wherein the mounting flange is formed with a series of bores through which tightening bolts are adapted to pass.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim [31]35 wherein the series of bores are partly surrounded by arcuate projections.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is composed of more than one segment, the segments being held together by an elastic band.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 37 wherein metal inserts are interposed between adjacent segments.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 38 wherein the segments and inserts are held together by the elastic band threaded therethrough.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is made of sheet metal.